

Procedures for Submitting Written Comments on Senate Bill 3563

Background

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is scheduled to hold a hearing on Friday, September 1, 2006 at 1:00 PM in the Student Union Ballroom at the Student Union Building of Montana State University Northern, located at 1 SUB Drive in Havre, Montana.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 3563, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility and environmental impact of rehabilitating the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and the Milk River Project, to authorize the rehabilitation and improvement of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, to develop an emergency response plan for use in the case of catastrophic failure of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, and for other purposes. The Committee will call selected witnesses to provide oral testimony at the hearing.

Committee Members

Republicans	Democrats
1. Chairman Pete V. Domenici (NM)	13. Jeff Bingaman (NM) - Ranking Member
2. Larry E. Craig (ID)	14. Daniel K. Akaka (HI)
3. Craig Thomas (WY)	15. Byron L. Dorgan (ND)
4. Lamar Alexander (TN)	16. Ron Wyden (OR)
5. Lisa Murkowski (AK)	17. Tim Johnson (SD)
6. Richard Burr (NC)	18. Mary L. Landrieu (LA)
7. Mel Martinez (FL)	19. Dianne Feinstein (CA)
8. James M. Talent (MO)	20. Maria Cantwell (WA)
9. Conrad Burns (MT)	21. Ken Salazar (CO)
10. George Allen (VA)	22. Robert Menendez (NJ)
11. Gordon Smith (OR)	
12. Jim Bunning (KY)	

Procedure for Submitting Written Comments - Based on best available information as of 8/9/06

- Purpose** –
 - Re-enforce need to rehabilitate the St. Mary Diversion Facilities and addressing associated issues of the Blackfeet and Ft Belknap Tribes, and the Milk River Basin.
 - Provide an opportunity for each interest at the table to bring their concerns directly to Congress.
- Deadline** - The hearing record will usually stay open for 10 days after the hearing.
- Length** – There is no firm page limit, but the Committee recommends less than 5 pages.
- Format** – Committee prefers having written comments submitted in an electronic format such as MS Word or Word Perfect. Written comments in hard copy will also be accepted.

5. **Who to address comments to** - Your comments should be addressed to "Chairman Domenici, Ranking Member Bingaman, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee"
6. **Contact Information** – Include your personal contact information – name, address, etc, with your written comments.
7. **Form/Generic Letters** –They do not really help nor hurt our case. It is always best to hear the impact on the individual person or group.
8. **Where to send** – Your comments can be submitted to the Committee in the following ways:
 - Electronic copies (MS Word or Word Perfect) can be emailed to one of the following:
 - Heather Stefanik at Heather_Stefanik@burns.senate.gov
 - Sarah Converse at sarah_converse@burns.senate.gov
 - Larry Mires at trg@nemont.net
 - Brandi Beecher at bbeecher@bearpaw.org
 - Written comments in hard copy or on a computer disk can be brought to the hearing or mailed to:
Sarah Converse
U.S. Senator Conrad Burns
321 1st Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Other Information

- Speak from the heart. Your comments should focus on how passage of S.3563 will affect you personally, your community, or the interest you represent.
- Draft your comments prior to the hearing and then attend the hearing and listen to oral testimony from the witnesses. This may spark additional ideas and allow you to address the witness's testimony, particularly that of the US Bureau of Reclamation, and any questions that were raised.
- Don't hesitate to contact Larry Mires trg@nemont.net ph. 406-263-8402, fax: 406-228-9033, or Paul Azevedo pazevedo@mt.gov ph. 406-444-6635, fax 406-444-0533, if you have any questions, comments or concerns.